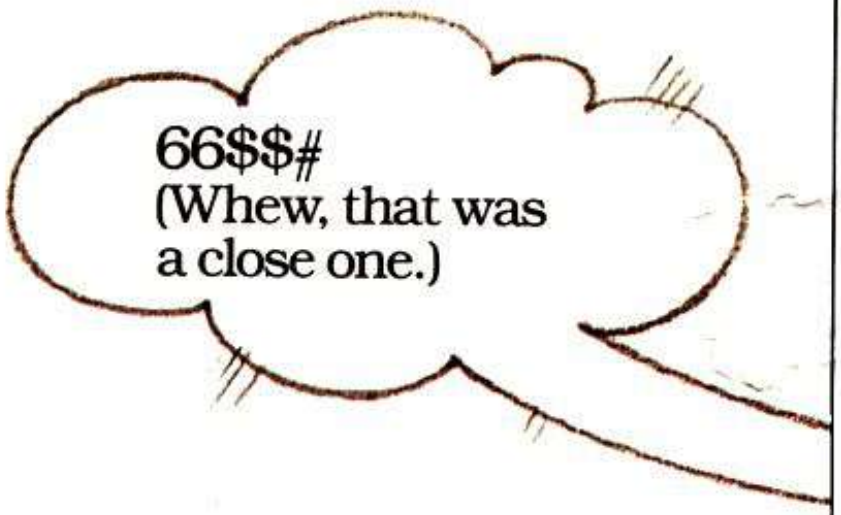
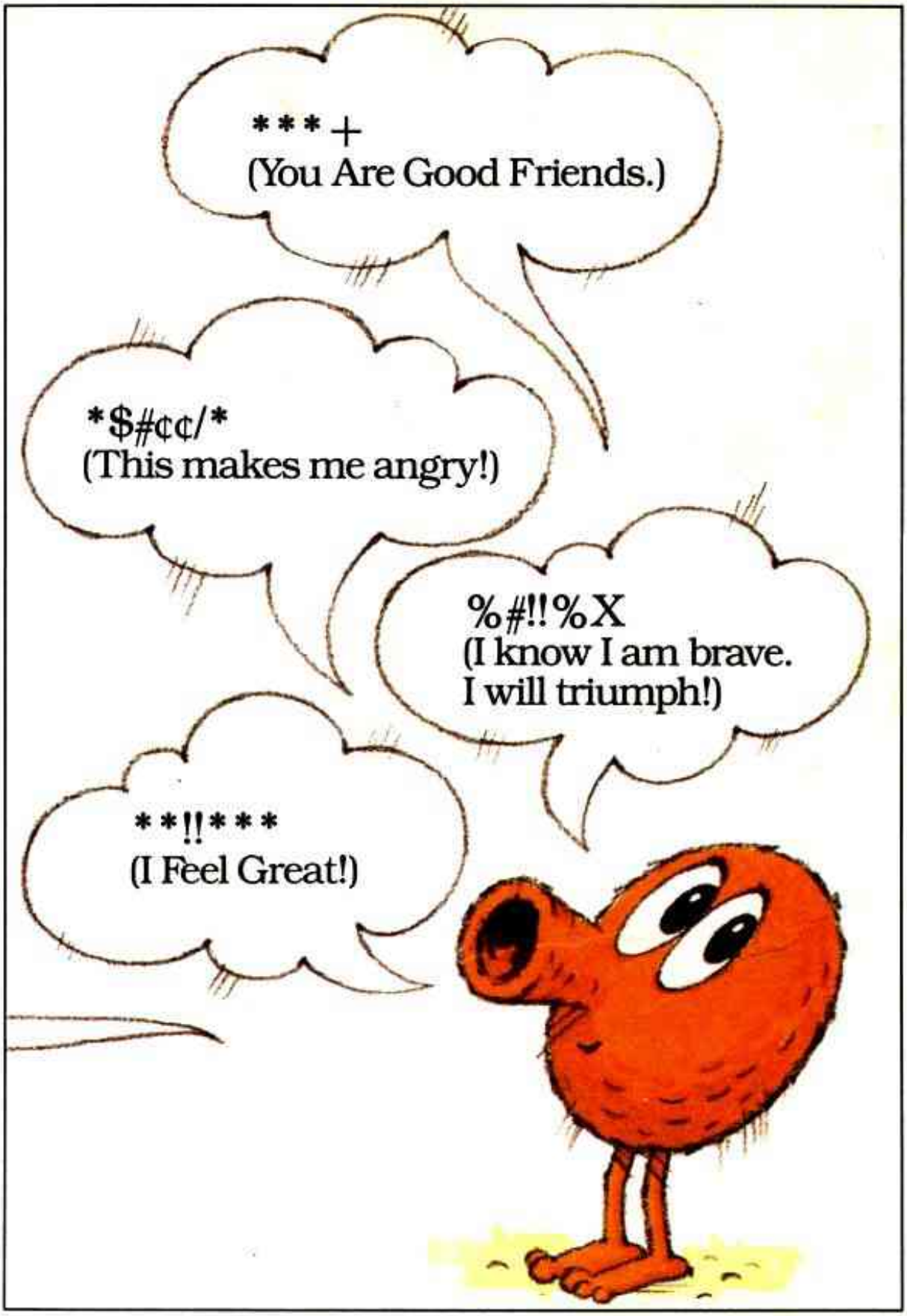
The Adventures of Q*bert™

PARKER BROTHERS

What Q*bert means when he says...




***+
(You Are Good Friends.)
$#¢¢/
(This makes me angry!)
%#!!%X
(I know I am brave.
I will triumph!)
!!*
(I Feel Great!)

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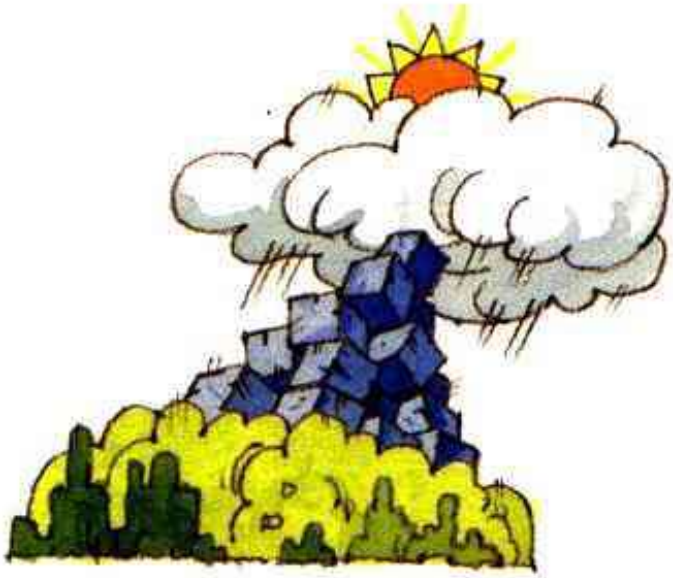
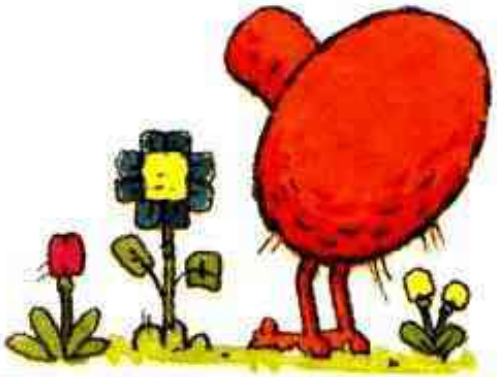
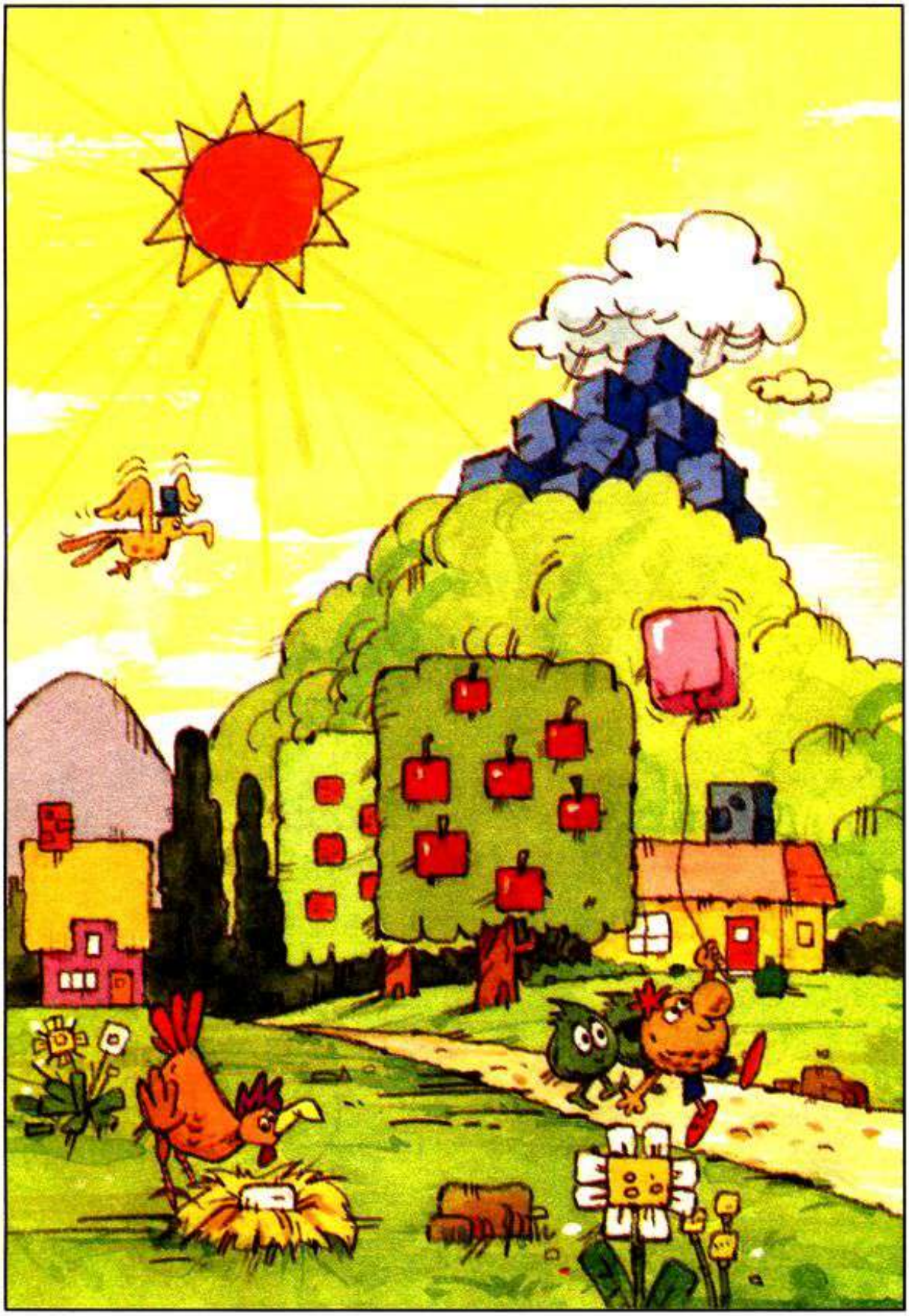
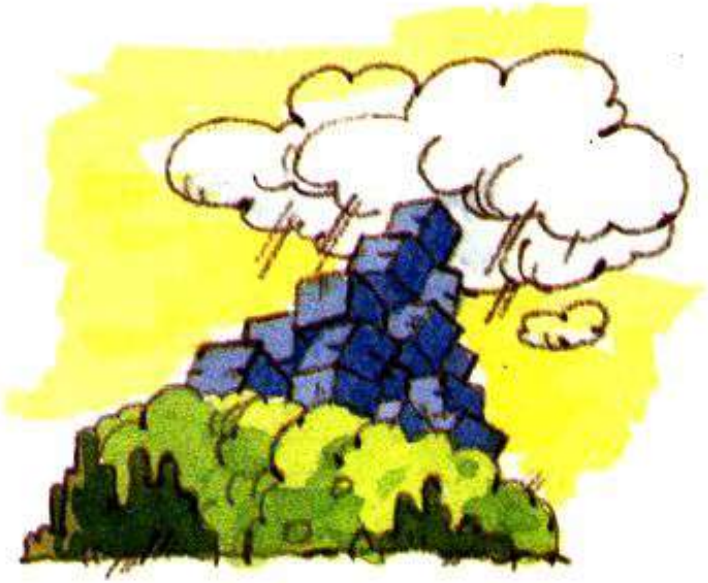


The Adventures of Q*bert

Story by John Robinson
Pictures by Al Moraski

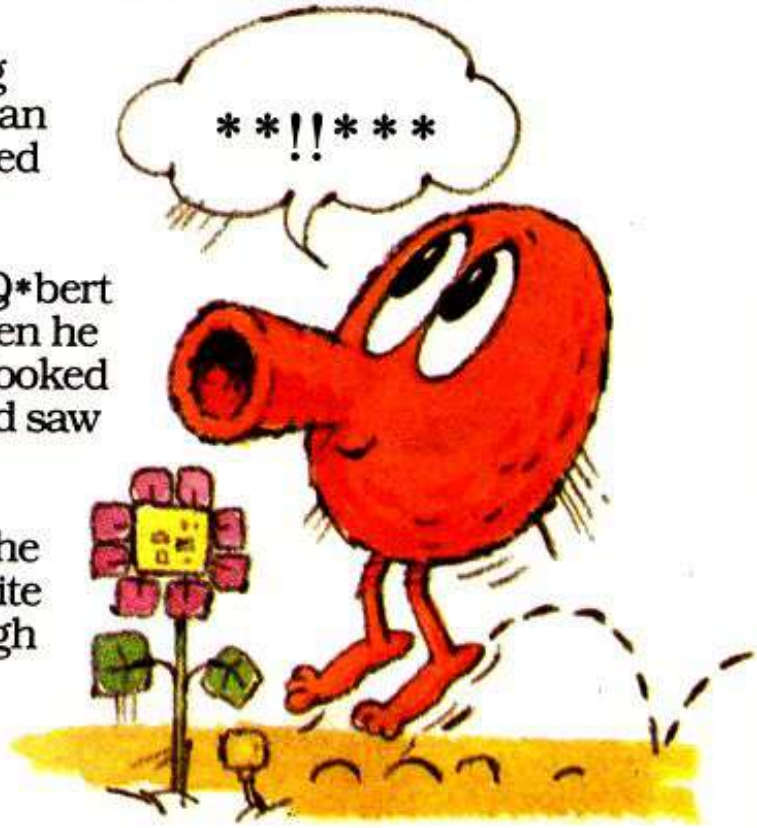






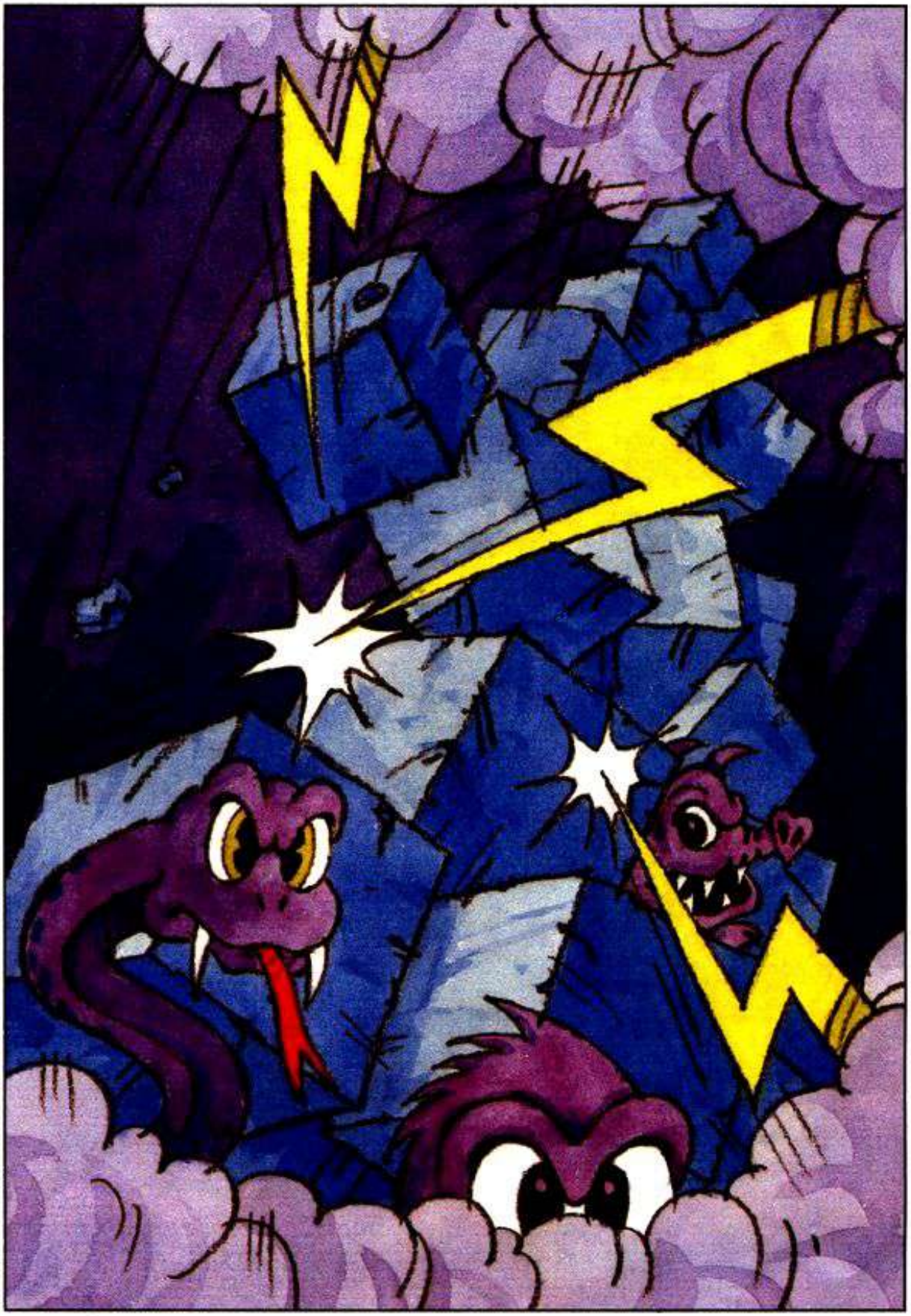
Q*bert was a likeable little creature who lived in the far-away town of Q-burg. It was a town different from most in that almost all of the things in it were Qube-shaped. Apples and oranges weren't round. Neither were balloons. And chickens laid square eggs that were called queggs.

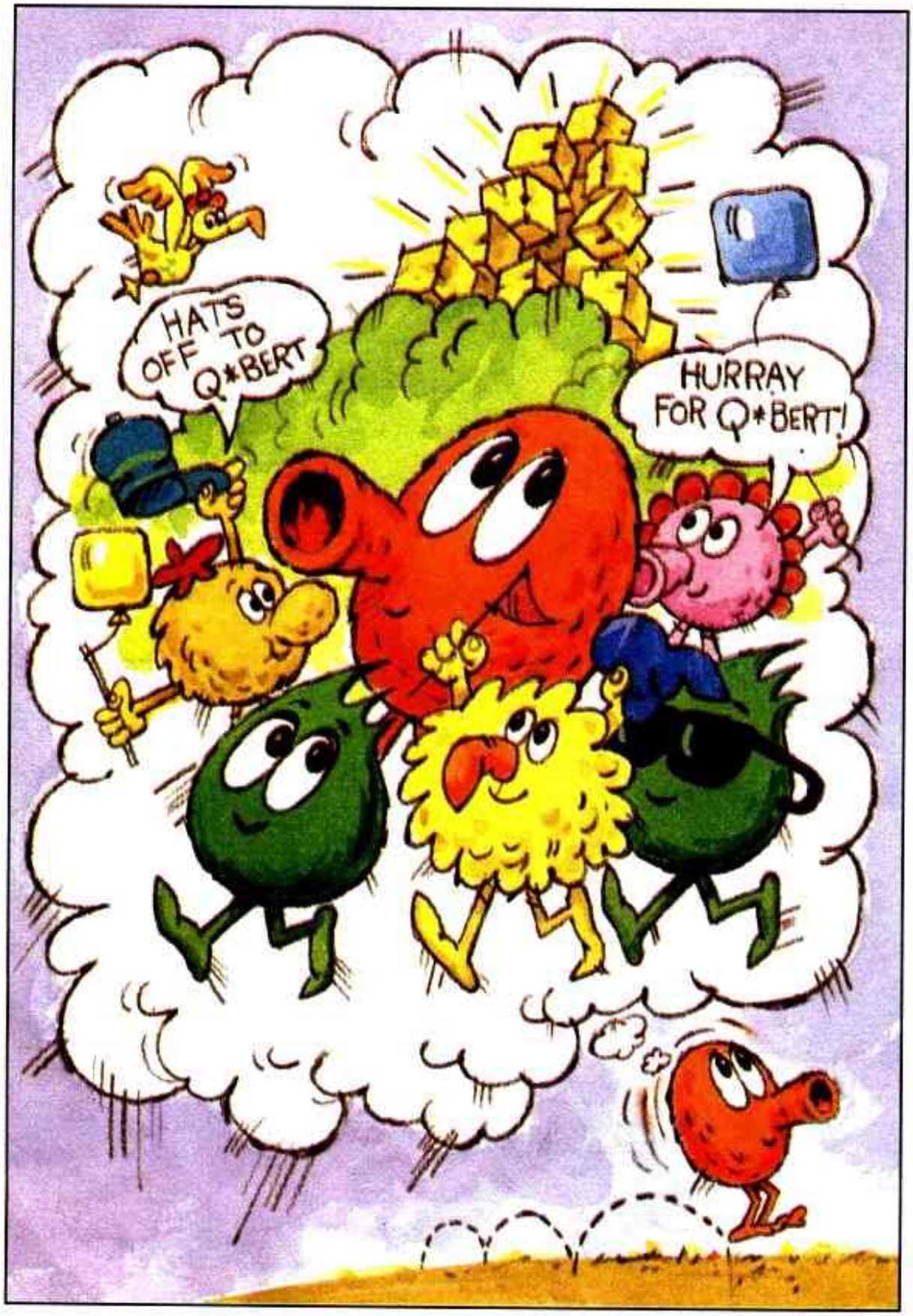
One sunny morning Q*bert went out for an adventure. He hopped along humming a merry little tune. "**!!***," he said. Q*bert always said that when he was happy. Q*bert looked into the distance and saw his destination, the magic mountain of Qube, towering on the horizon. Its big granite blocks were piled high in the sky.



Q*bert had never been to the magic mountain before this day, but he had certainly read the legend about it: The qubes of the mountain would change color if someone hopped on them, and if anyone could change all the qubes from one color to another within one day, peace and happiness would come to Q-burg.

The mountain was said to be dangerous, a place full of monsters, where boulders came down upon the unsuspecting. But Q*bert knew that his town would be a better place if someone could only make it to its top. He wanted to be that someone.



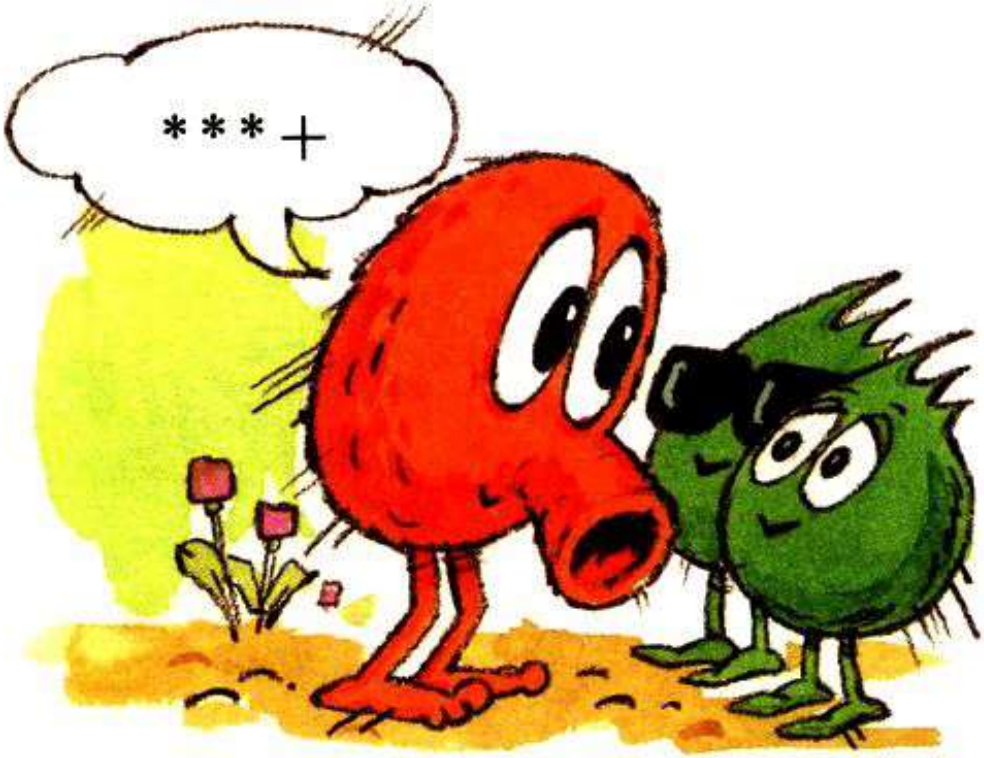

HATS OFF TO Q*BERT
HURRAY FOR Q*BERT!

He traveled along and imagined how all the kids at school would crowd around him and cheer after he had climbed the mountain. "Hurray for Q*bert!" they would yell. "Hats off to Q*bert. He helped us all."

Q*bert was so busy day dreaming that he didn't watch where he was going, and before he knew it, Pow! He ran right into his two friends, Slick and Sam.

"Hey, Q*bert. What's happening, man?" asked Slick as he picked himself up from the road.

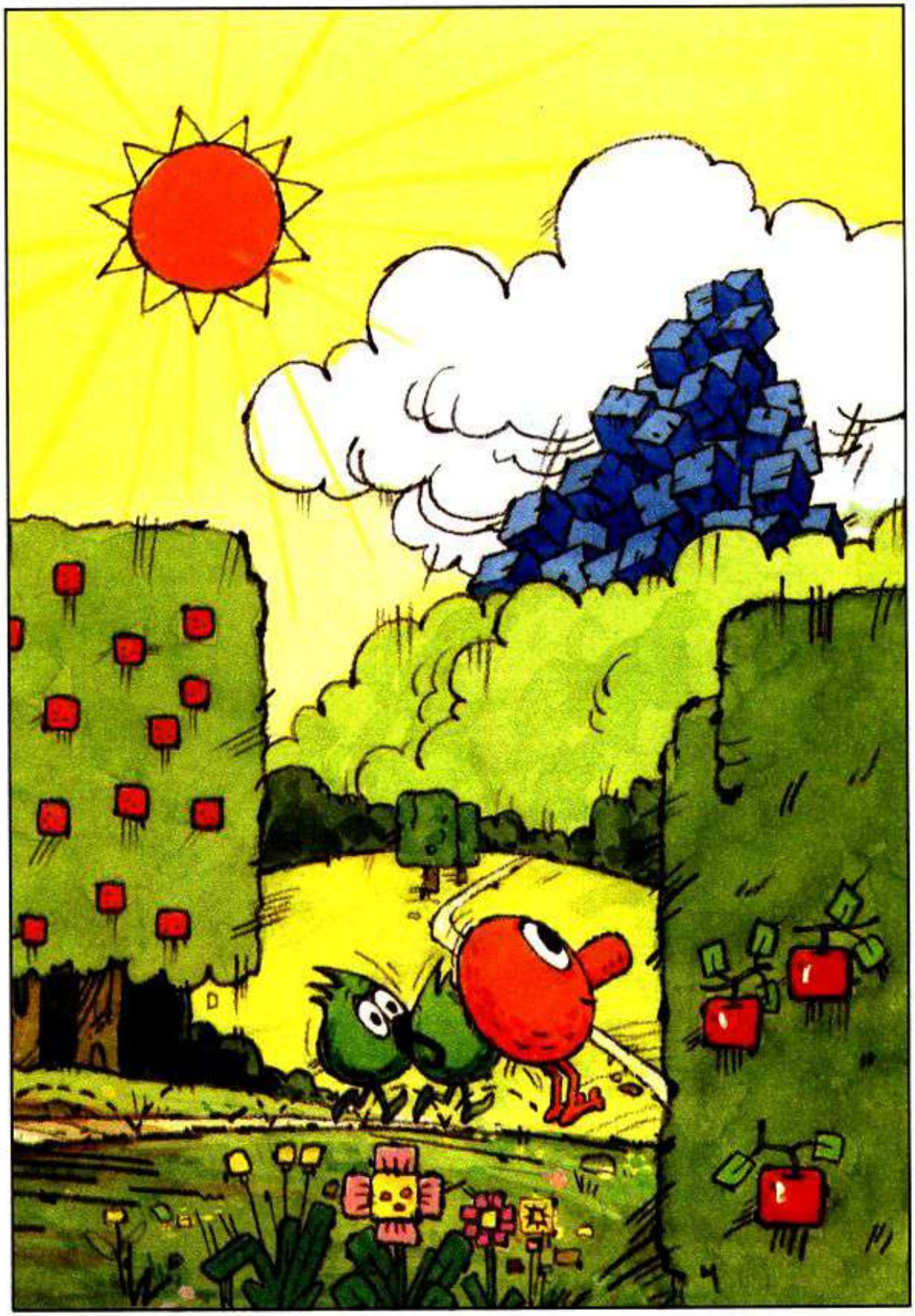
Q*bert laughed to himself. He loved the way Slick and Sam talked. They thought they were *so* cool, but they really weren't. They were just friends who meant well, even if they often wound up making a mess of things.

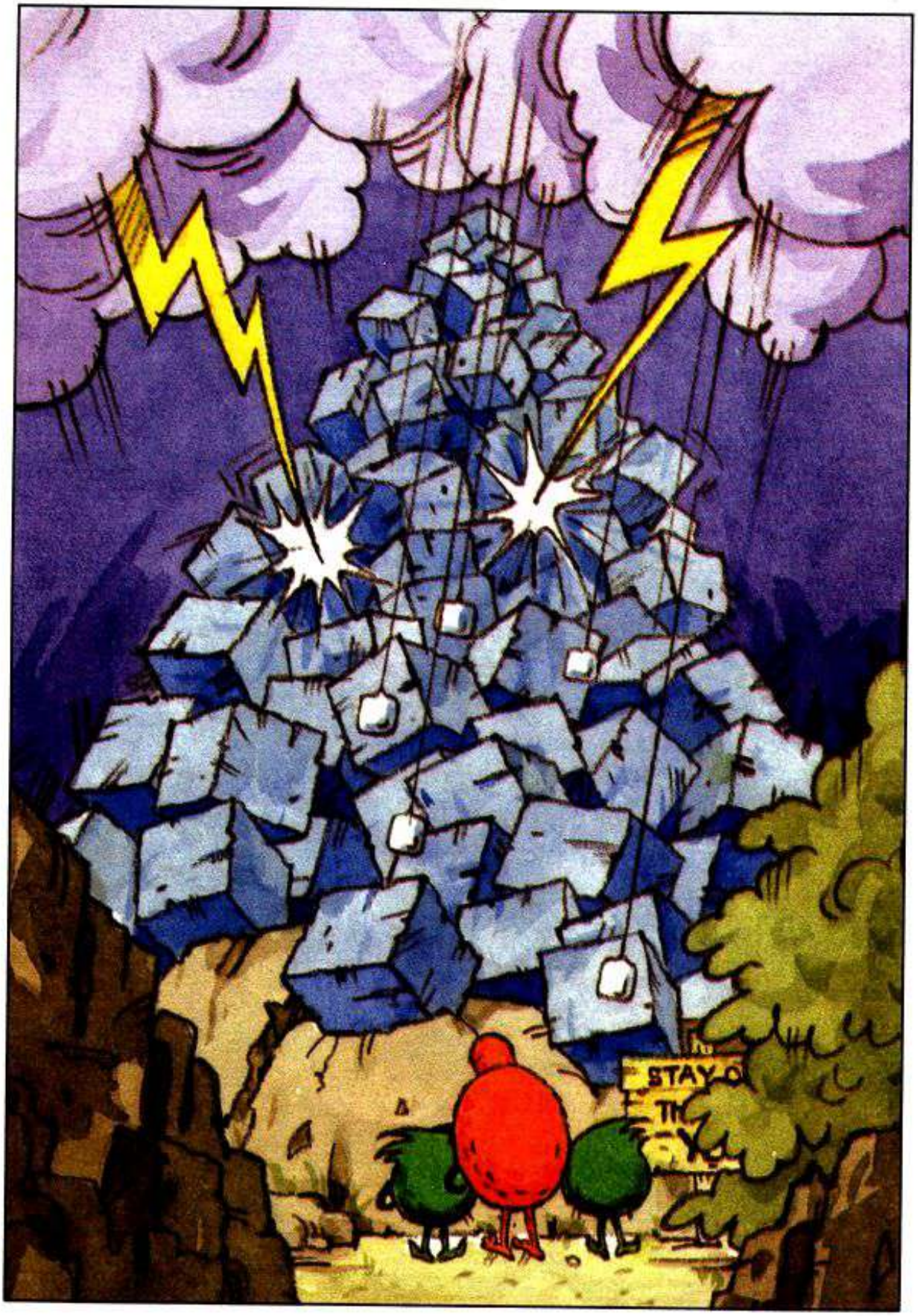


Q*bert explained his plan to his friends, and Sam said, "Q*bert, baby, that's the greatest. I am fully confident that I speak for the both of us when I say that we would like get in on this action. Do you mind if we join your quest?"

"* * * +," Q*bert answered, "and I surely will need some help. Come along. It will be a great adventure!"

The three friends traveled down the road. Sometimes Slick and Sam got so excited that they bumped into each other and fell down, but eventually they arrived at the magic mountain of Qube.




STAY

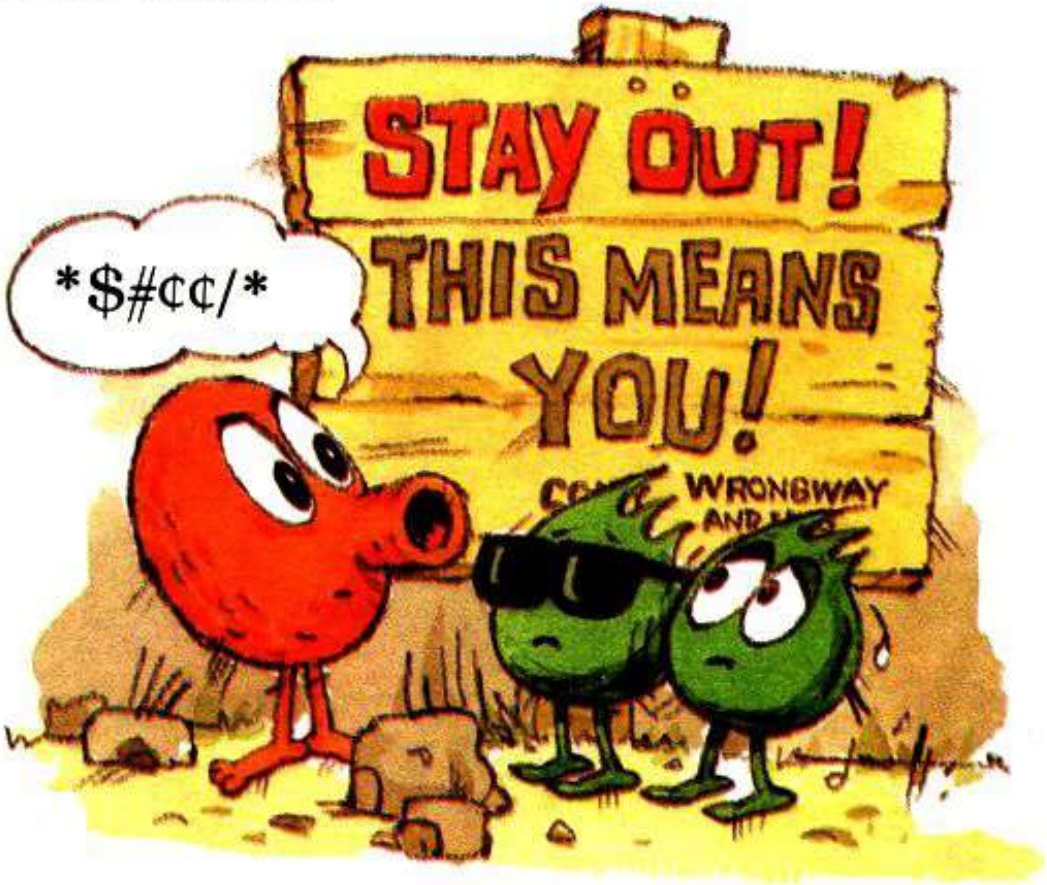
As they came to the foot of the mountain, the sun was suddenly covered by gray clouds. Lightning flashed and big, square raindrops fell from the sky. Q*bert and his friends were soaked, but they hopped bravely along.

The lightning flashed again, and there before them stood a large wooden sign:

STAY OUT!
THIS MEANS YOU! Signed
Coily, Wrongway and Ugg
(The Quarrelsome Quorum)

"*$#¢¢/* Poof and double poof to the Quarrelsome Quorum," said Q*bert. "Those bullies, they can't tell us to stay off the mountain. They can't give us orders, right?" He asked Slick and Sam.

Slick and Sam looked doubtful, but they nodded their heads very slowly. Suddenly they didn't seem anxious to continue the climb.



"Maybe we shouldn't, like, you know, climb the mountain, Q*bert, my man," Sam said. "That Quorum sounds like bad business to me. You know how they like to push us around in school."

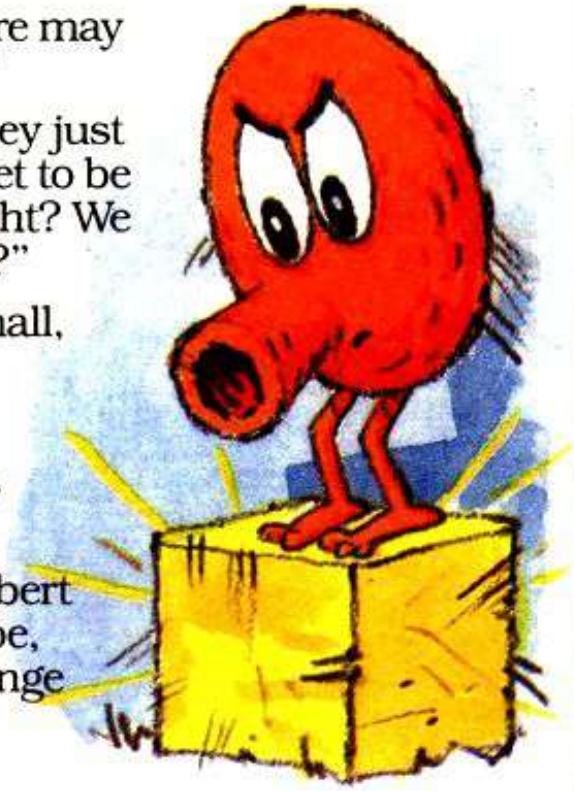
"Yeah," Slick agreed. "And there may be wild animals up there, too."

"Oh, baloney," Q*bert said. They just don't want anyone on the planet to be happy. They don't scare us, right? We can get the best of them, right?"

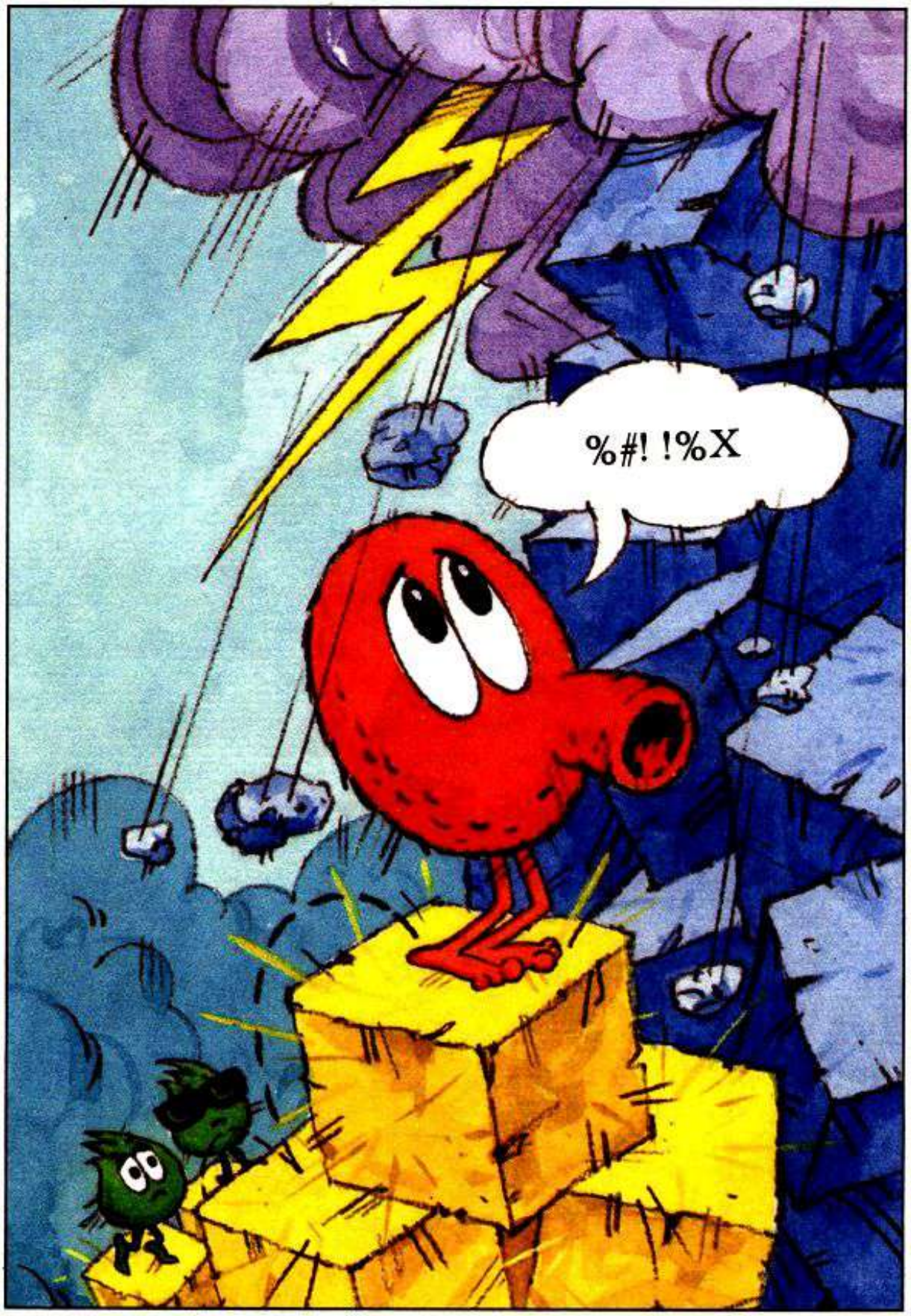
"Right," said Slick in a very small, timid voice.

"All right then, let's go!"

And the three friends began to climb the mountain.



At first the climb was easy. Q*bert would land on a mountain qube, and sure enough, it would change color. He was making progress. He felt good. Then a tremendous clap of thunder shook loose a shelf of rocks high above their heads. Boulders bounced and crashed all about them, but Q*bert kept going.


%#! !%X

Q*bert shook himself and said, "%#! !%X." Then he said it again, "%#! !%X."

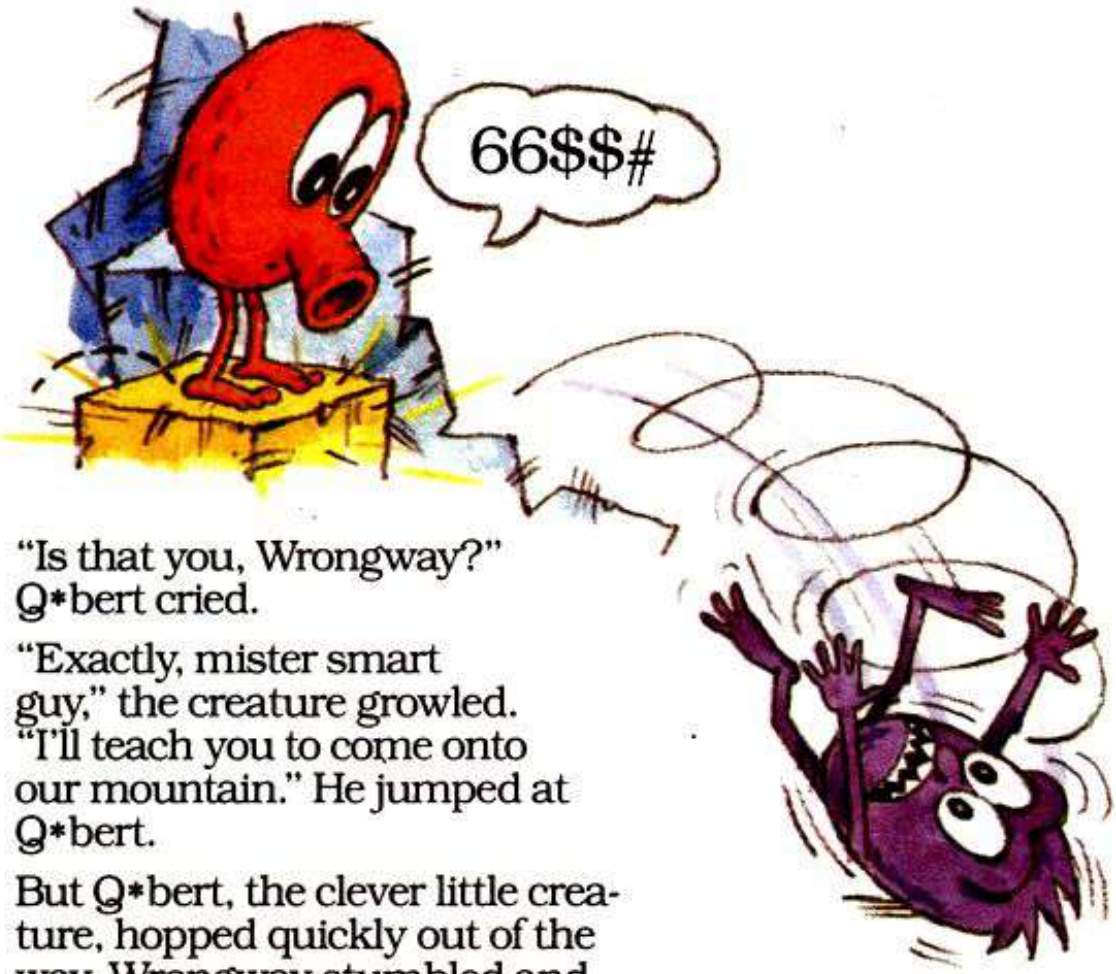
Behind Q*bert Slick and Sam started to have an argument.

"Hey, man, I say that we split now before we become two squashed dudes."

"Don't be a drip, Slick. Q*bert will get us through safe and sound."

Q*bert hoped what Sam was saying was true. He was getting a little bit frightened himself.

He didn't have much time to think about his fear, however, because suddenly below him he heard a growling. He looked down and saw a nasty creature coming at him from below.



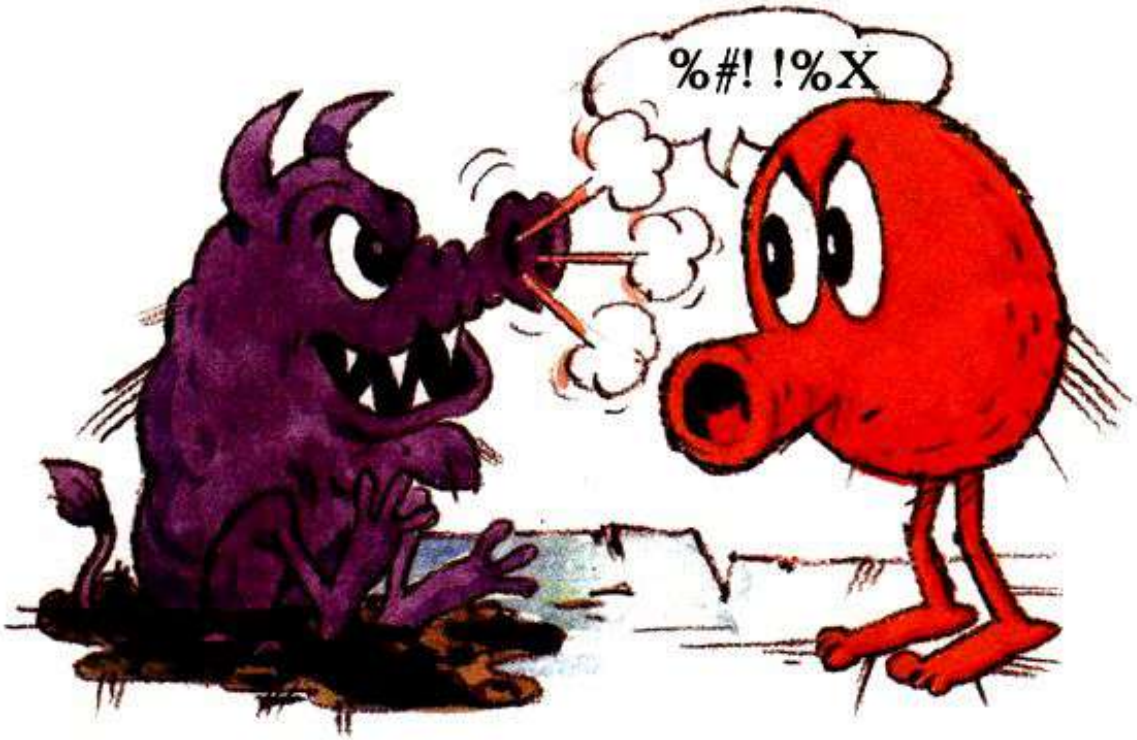
"Is that you, Wrongway?" Q*bert cried.

"Exactly, mister smart guy," the creature growled. "I'll teach you to come onto our mountain." He jumped at Q*bert.

But Q*bert, the clever little creature, hopped quickly out of the way. Wrongway stumbled and rolled down the mountain.

"66$$#," Q*bert said. "Come on you guys. Quick, let's keep going."

Before he could hop more than five qubes, he came upon a huge mud puddle, and in the middle of that puddle was a creature that looked like a hog, smelled like a hog and talked like a hog.

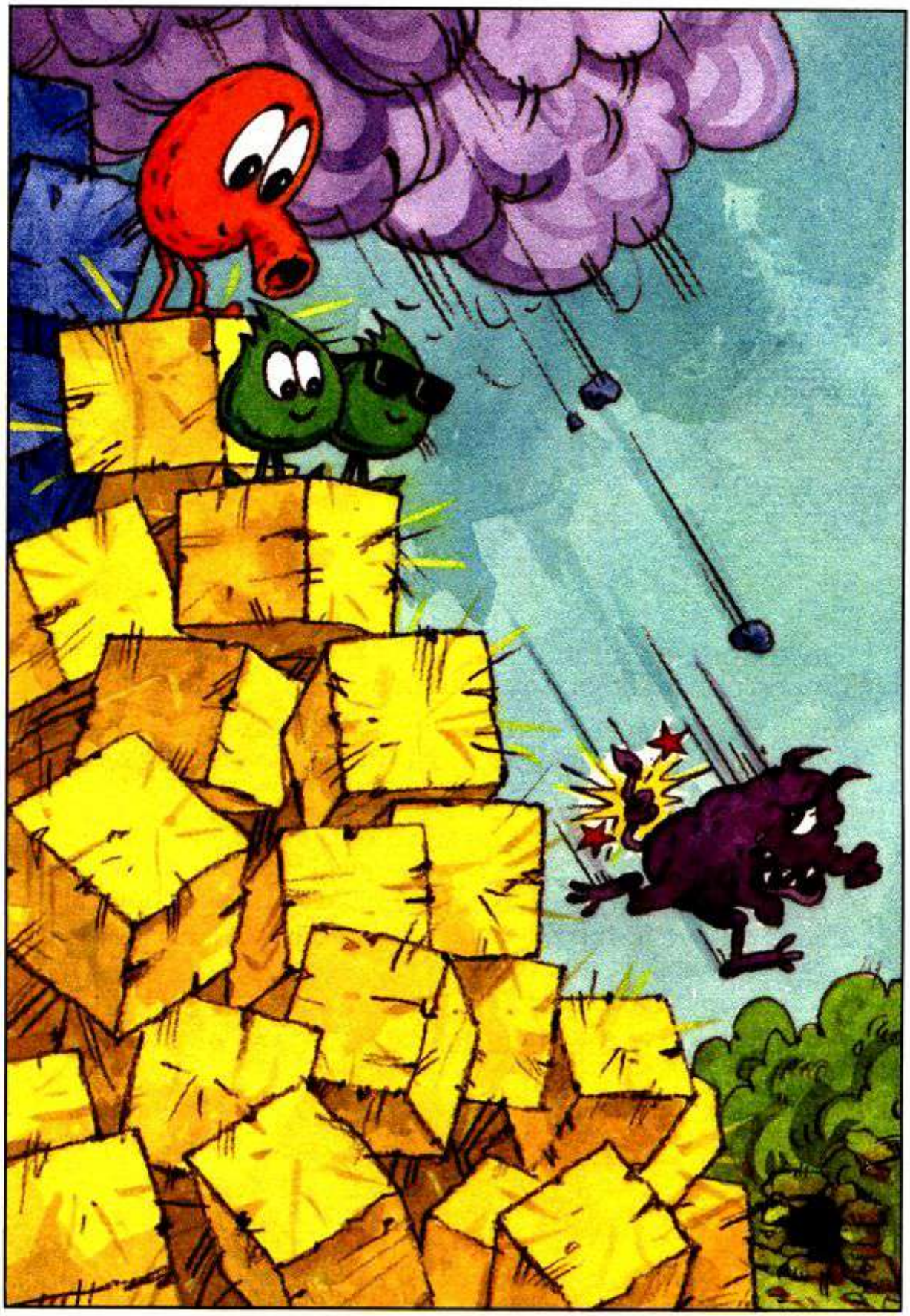


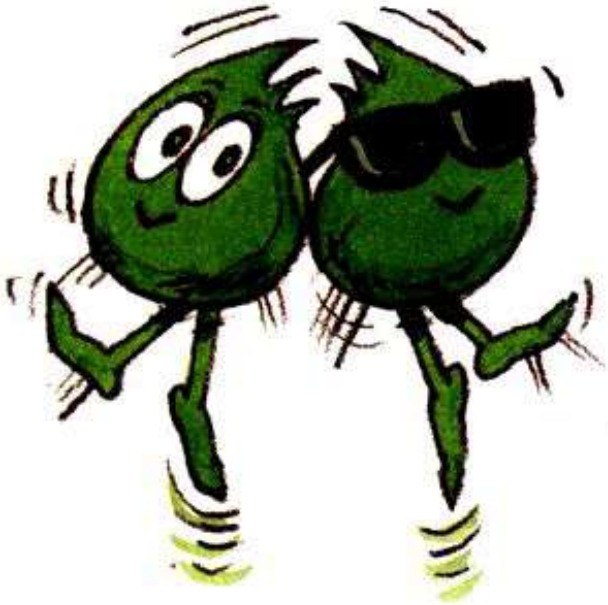
"Hey there, you fur ball with the vacuum cleaner snout, I'm going to snort three times. If you're not off the mountain by that time, you'll wish you never heard of Ugg!"

"%#! !%X," answered Q*bert. "I know why they call you Ugg. It's because you're so Uggly! You bully, you had better get out of my way!"

Ugg snorted three times and then raced toward Q*bert. The little creature hopped out of the way, and quick as a flash Slick and Sam appeared, grabbed Ugg's tail and tied a knot in it.

"Ouch! Oh, my tail, my poor lovely little curly tail!" cried Ugg, sounding like a scared child. He ran down the mountain, disappeared into a cave and Q*bert never saw him again.



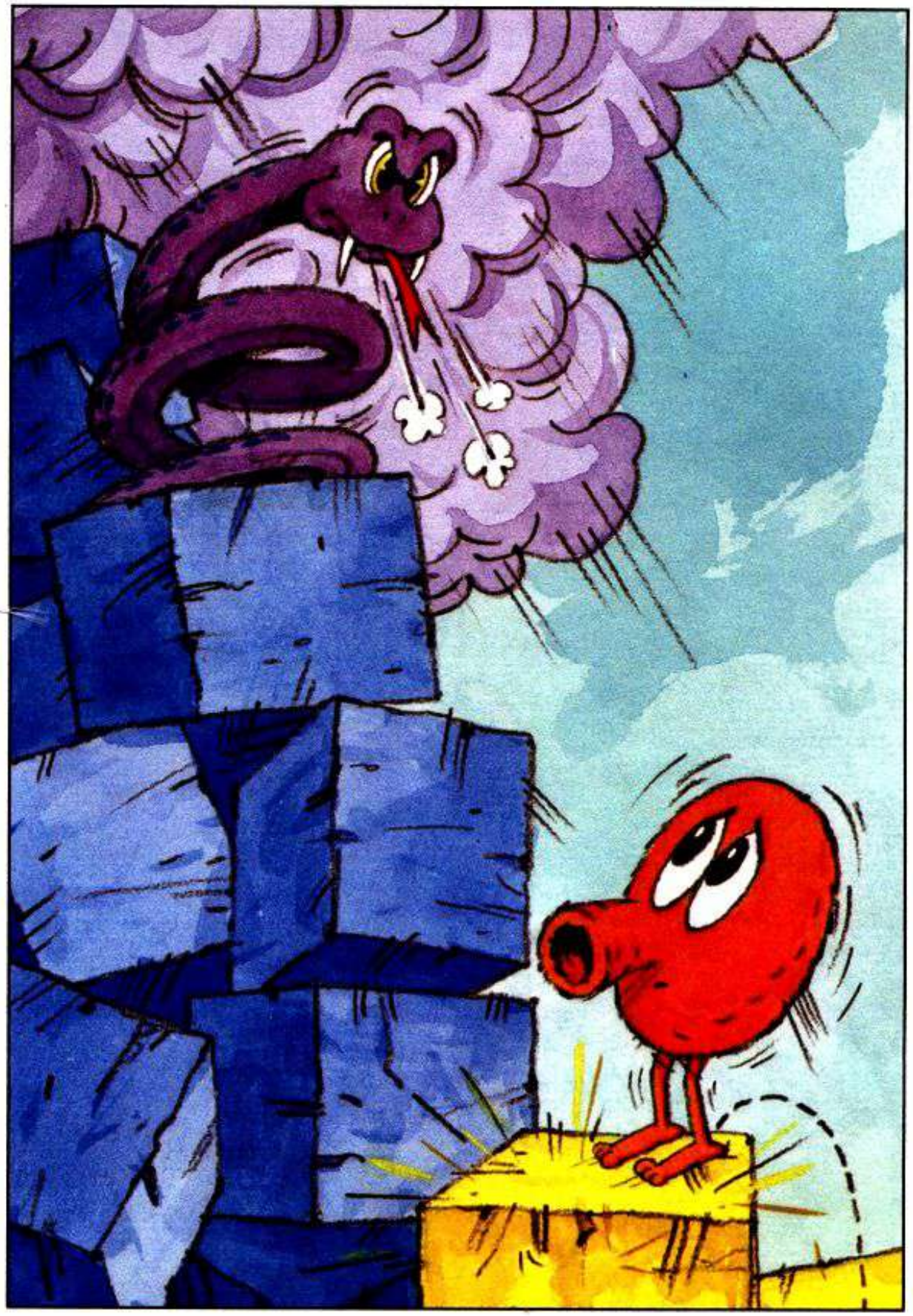


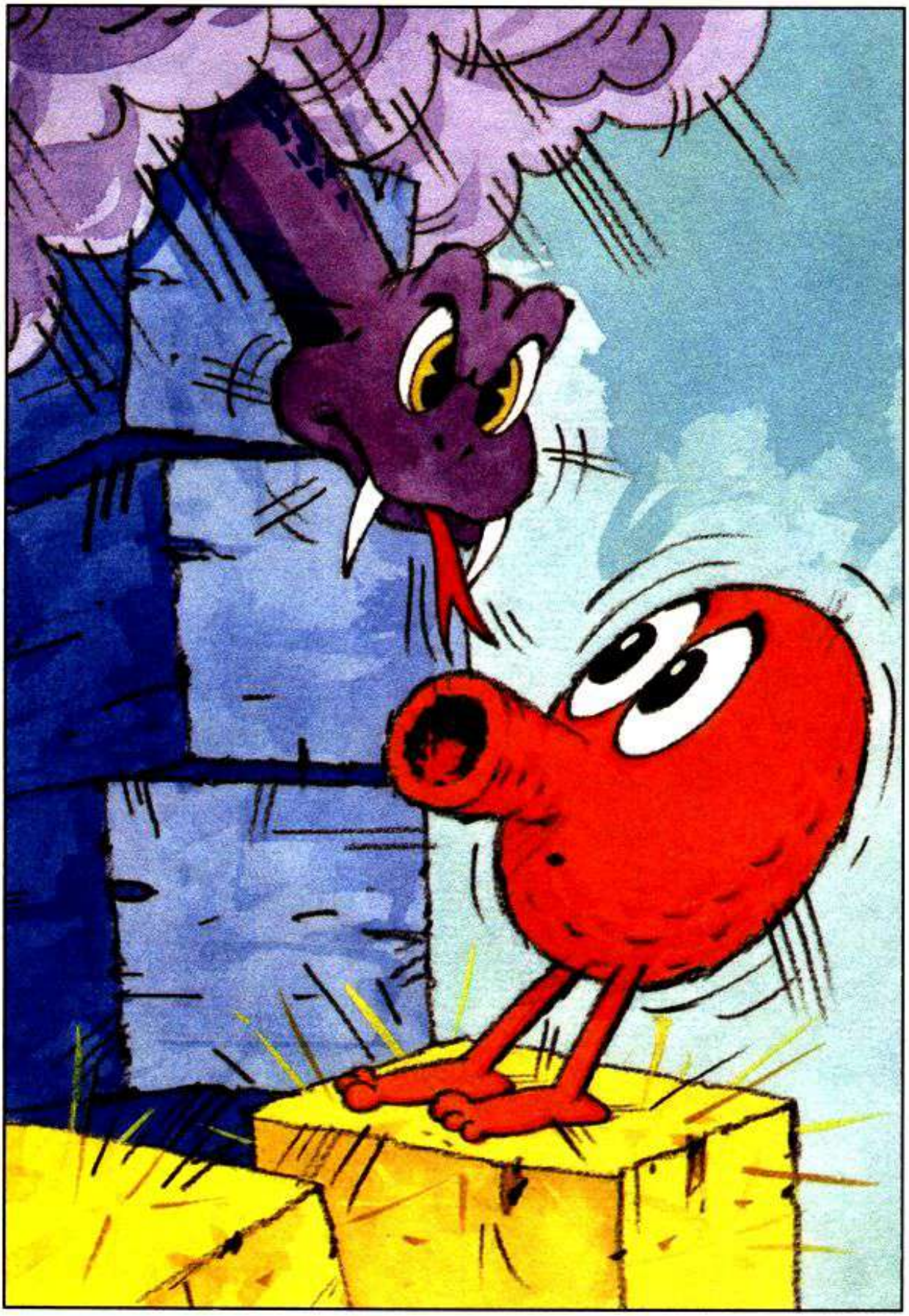
"Good work, my man," Slick said to Sam. And they both jumped up and down in excitement.

"We're not done yet," said Q*bert. We still have a quarter of the qubes to change. We must hurry because night-time is coming."

The shadows lengthened on the mountain of Qube as Q*bert busily went about his business. He had only a few Qubes left to hop on when he heard a hissing noise directly above him. He looked up—into the eyes of the biggest snake he had ever seen.

"So, you silly, scrambling pest, you suppose you'll scoot to the summit of this mountain? Not if I have anything to say about it."





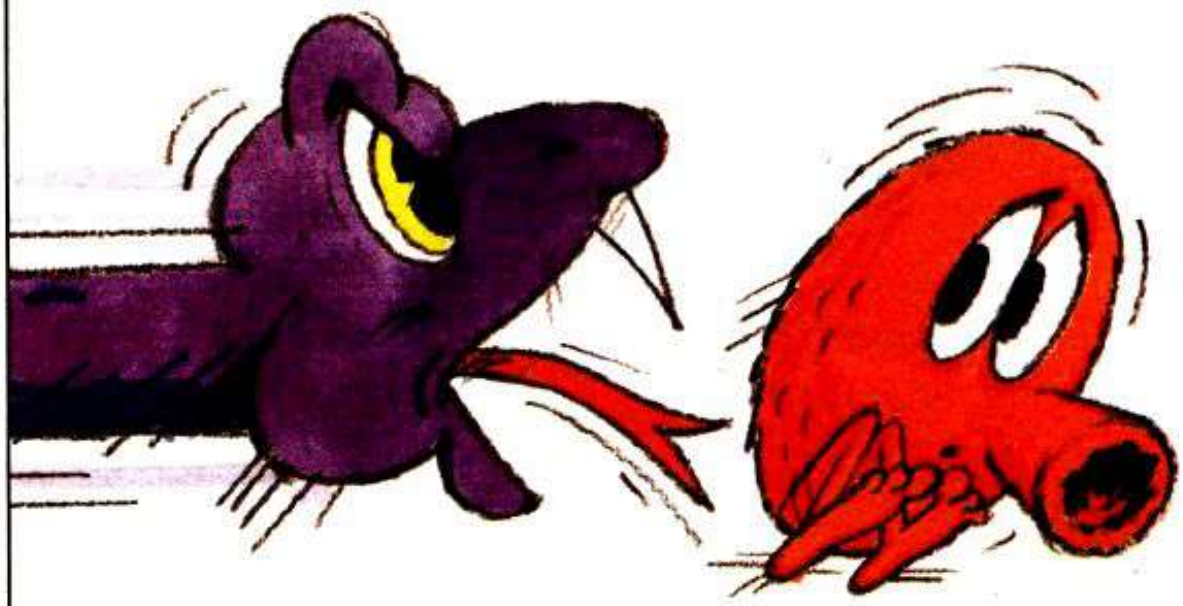
Q*bert knew that he had met the meanest of all the bad guys, Coily. "Why don't you let me past?" Q*bert asked. "Don't you want peace and happiness to come to Qube?"

"Ha!" laughed the snake in a mean way. "I am supremely content just as things stand. I am blissful staying right here, and I don't want simpering simpletons like you climbing all over my mountain disturbing my peace. Now be gone!"

"*$#¢¢/*," said Q*Bert. "Not on your life. Who says it's your mountain? I've come this far, and you'll have to poison me if you want to stop me now."

"That can be arranged," sneered Coily, and he lunged at Q*bert.

It looked as if it was the end of Q*bert. He had no way to escape.



However, by luck, Slick, who had been hurrying to catch up with Q*bert, saw what was happening. He gave a whoop and jumped at Coily from a nearby ledge. He landed with a loud plop right on top of Coily's head.

"Ooph!" gasped the snake and lost its balance. As Coily bounced down the mountainside he wailed, "You scoundrels! You'll be sorry!"

Q*bert caught his breath and said, "Gee, thanks, Slick. You saved me."

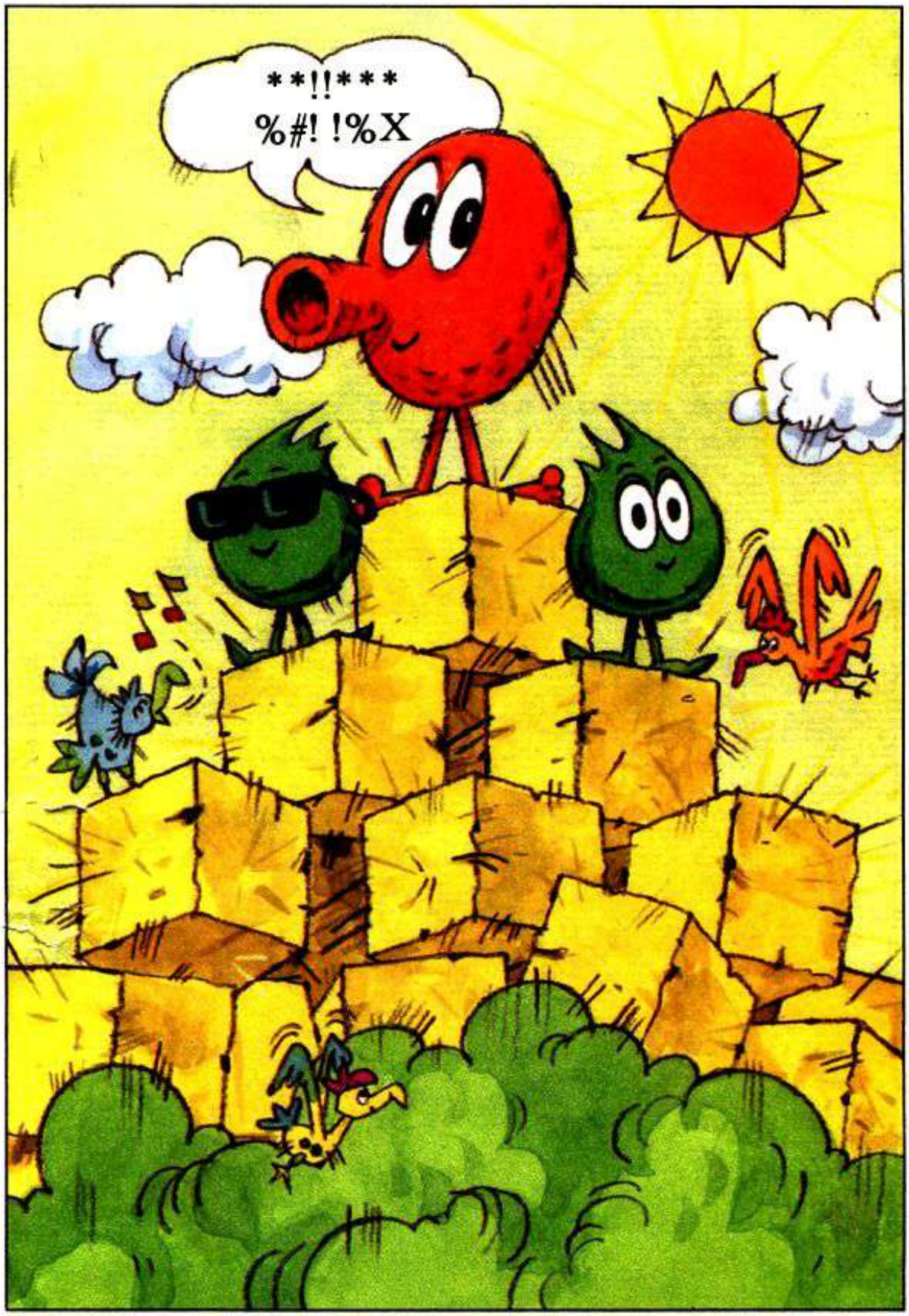
"My pleasure, Q*bert, baby," said Slick blushing. "Now let's get all those qubes changed."

Q*bert, followed by his faithful friends, continued up to the very top of the magical mountain of Qube.

When he looked down, all the qubes had changed colors.

Q*bert was proud of himself.

"**!!***," he said. "%#! !%X."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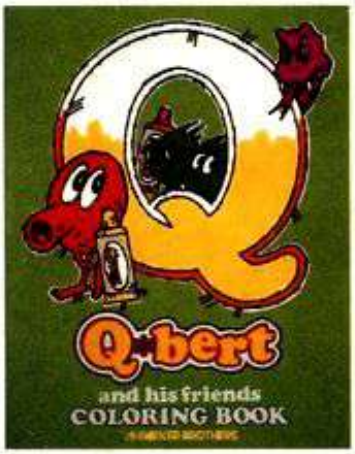

Q*bert, the qute quazy little guy everyone's gotten to know through the great arcade game named after him now is the star of a new series of books. And he's just as much fun on a page as he is on a screen!

If you want to find out the real reason Q*bert decided to hop around on the mountain of qubes, it's in this book; or you can laugh at his funny riddles in *Q*bert's Quazy Questions*. And if you like to color, be sure to get a copy of the coloring book, *Q*bert and His Friends*.

All the new Q*bert books are certain to give Q*bert fans hours of fun and adventure, and if you're not a Q*bert fan yet, once you read the books you're sure to be quazy about Q*bert too!

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Ages 6 to 10

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